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Attorney Docket No.: 28951.5405

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 11, 12 and 13 and replace the original sheets including Figs. 11, 12 and 13.

In Figures 11, 12 and 13, the label "Prior Art" was added.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (2 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, as amended, remain pending herein.

1. Figures 11, 12, and 13 were amended to include a "Prior Art" label. Replacement sheets are attached.
2. Claim 5 was objected to for using the term "surface" instead of "source." Claim 5 has been amended.
3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313. Applicants discovered, *inter alia*, a light guiding piece located in a concave between an operation knob and a panel to diffusively transmit light from a light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob. Hsiung does not describe claim 1. Instead, Hsiung describes an operation knob with a plurality of light sources that utilizes a light guide to reflect light to the front surface of the knob. See Hsiung, Figs. 1 and 2; col. 2, lines 9-60.

Thus, Hsiung does not disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for a rejection under §102. Nor does Hsiung suggest applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, all claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 are not anticipated by Hsiung, and applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection, and allowance of all those claims.

4. Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313 in view of Weber et al. US Patent 6,092,902. As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Hsiung which discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

Weber describes a light guide with a reflective coating. But Weber does not describe a light guiding piece located in a concave between an operation knob and a panel to diffusively

transmit light from a light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob, as in applicants' claim 1.

Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Hsiung or Weber which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of each of claims 4 and 6 are nonobvious over Hsiung and Weber, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

5. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hsiung US Patent 6,876,313 in view of Bauer US Patent 4,800,466. As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Hsiung which discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

Bauer describes a device in which a panel has a hole to fit a light source, and light guides to direct the light. But Bauer does not describe a light guiding piece located in a concave between an operation knob and a panel to diffusively transmit light from a light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob, as in applicants' claim 1.

Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Hsiung or Bauer which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 8 nonobvious over Hsiung and Bauer, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of those grounds of rejection.

For all the foregoing reasons, all claims 1-9 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

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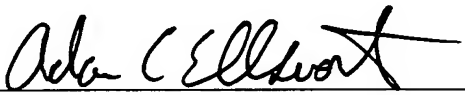
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The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

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Roger W. Parkhurst  
Reg. No. 25,177  
Adam C. Ellsworth  
Reg. No. 55,152

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1795  
Tel: (202) 429-6420